

REMARKS

With the addition of new claims 14 and 17, claims 1 to 17 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office Action contends that the present application includes the following two groups of claims:

Group I	Claims 1 to 9 and 13
Group II	Claims 10 to 12

Applicants elect, with traverse, the claims of Group I, i.e., claims 1 to 9 and 13, for further prosecution on the merits. Since claim 14 depends from claim 1 and claim 15 depends from claim 13, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 14 and 15 are properly grouped with Group I. Applicants therefore respectfully request examination of claims 14 and 15 with the claims of Group I.


Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the grounds that claims 14 to 17 are linking claims. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all of the presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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Richard L. Mayer
Reg. No. 22,490
No. 42,197

One Broadway
New York, New York 10004
(212) 425-5288
CUSTOMER NO. 26646